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ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,  
HELD AT  
CENTER RIDGE CHURCH,  
CARLOWVILLE, DALLAS COUNTY, ALA.,  
SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD, 1885.

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SELMA PRINTING COMPANY, SELMA, ALA.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters from the churches.
3. Organization.
4. Recess.
5. Miscellaneous.
  - (a) Admit new churches.
  - (b) Receive and appoint correspondents.
  - (c) Appoint committees.
6. Reports of standing committees.
7. Reports of special committees.
8. Miscellaneous.

[The report of the Treasurer and of the Finance Committee, and other matter not herein specified, may be presented as miscellaneous business, which shall be in order at any time when there is no subject under consideration.]

# PROCEEDINGS

## OF THE

### THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

## OF THE

# SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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Pursuant to adjournment, the delegates from the churches composing the Selma Baptist Association met at Center Ridge church, Carlowville, Dallas county, Alabama, on Tuesday, September 1st, 1885. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. B. Crumpton; text, 1 Cor. 16:13; "Be strong."

After a recess of one hour, the delegates were called to order by the Moderator. The letters from the churches were read by visiting Brethren J. G. Harris and C. C. Jones, and names of delegates enrolled as follows:

- Center Ridge—H. S. Yates, Jos. Swink, J. C. Yates.
- Town Creek—Elder J. M. Fortune, L. L. Pierce.
- Bethany—Elder E. F. Baber, J. O. Robertson.
- Benton—Money; no delegate.
- Rahamah—Not represented.
- Mt. Gilead—M. H. Traylor.
- Providence—Lewis Johnson, B. P. Mosely, Wm. Day, Elder W. B. Crumpton.
- Pleasant Hill—J. R. Crumpton, S. J. Catts.
- Sister Springs—Letter; no delegate.
- Shiloh—Letter; no delegate.
- Selma—Letter; no delegate.

Brethren Jones and Harris were also requested to act as tellers in the election of officers. Elder E. F. Baber was elected Moderator; M. H. Traylor, Clerk; B. P. Mosely, Treasurer.

The Moderator announced the following committees:

- On Finance—J. R. Crumpton, J. O. Robertson, Wm. Day.
- To Supply Vacancies in Standing Committees: On Missions—Elder W. B. Crumpton. On Literature—Elder J. M. Fortune.
- On Religious Exercises, and Time and Place of Next Meeting—L. L. Pierce, S. J. Catts, and Deacons of Center Ridge church.

The Committee on Religious Exercises were instructed to appoint Elder C. W. Hare to preach the missionary sermon to-morrow at 11 o'clock, in place of Dr. Frost, absent.

Report of former Treasurer was presented and received :

REPORT OF TREASURER.

H. W. Edwards, Treasurer,

In account with Selma Baptist Association:

Dr.

To cash received for State Missions.....	\$37 81
Aged and Infirm Ministers.....	2 00
Home Mission Board.....	15 21
Church Building Department.....	5 00
Foreign Missions.....	9 26
Minutes.....	20 50
Ministerial Education.....	2 75
	<hr/>
	\$92 53

Cr.

By amount paid T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sec'y.....	\$69 28
W. C. Cleveland for Ministerial Education.....	2 75
I. R. Eskew, Clerk, for Minutes .....	20 50
	<hr/>
	\$92 53

H. W. EDWARDS, Treasurer.

On call for correspondents the following were reported :

Elder C. W. Hare—Henderson County Association (Kentucky).

Elder J. M. Fortune—Home Mission Board.

Elder E. F. Baber—State Mission Board.

D. Palmer, C. C. Jones, A. M. Lee, T. W. Watson, Wm. Purifoy--From Pine Barren Association, and also as committee of conference from Snow Hill church.

J. G. Harris—Representing the ALABAMA BAPTIST.

Elder T. M. Bailey (arrived subsequently)--Corresponding Secretary of State Mission Board.

The following correspondents were appointed :

To Pine Barren Association—J. P. Melton, Jos. Swink, J. H. Williamson.

To Cahaba Association—Elder W. B. Crumpton, Elder J. M. Fortune.

On motion of Elder Crumpton Brother Harris was requested to make a report on Education, and speak on the same sometime during the session of this Body.

By invitation Brother Harris presented the claims of the ALABAMA BAPTIST; Elder Crumpton also spoke on the same subject. Extended remarks were made by both speakers on the demoralizing influence of the newspaper and other current literature of the day.

Brother Catts, from Committee on Religious Exercises, made partial report as follows: To preach to-night, Elder E. F. Baber; missionary sermon to-morrow, Elder C. W. Hare.

Elder J. M. Fortune presented the Report on Literature. After remarks by Elders Fortune, Crumpton, Curry, and Brother J. G. Harris, the report was adopted.

#### REPORT ON LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Literature report: The sentiments of a people are formed by what they read. The press is the most powerful agent in the world, in giving shape to sentiment, social, moral and religious. We should, therefore, do all in our power to sustain and circulate the very best literature.

And first of all, we commend the ALABAMA BAPTIST, as every way worthy of our support, and the very best religious paper for Alabama Baptists to read.

The Foreign Mission Journal is the medium through which we may get the freshest and most reliable information from our foreign mission fields. It should be extensively read.

The Colportage Work of the State Mission Board, and the Bible Department of the American Baptist Publication Society, commend themselves to every lover of God's word and good literature.

The American Baptist Publication Society publishes the cheapest and best graded lessons for our Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE,  
JOS. SWINK.

The Moderator announced the following committees:

On State of Religion in the Churches—Elder W. B. Crumpton, J. C. Yates, L. L. Pierce.

On Documents—B. P. Moseley, Wm. Day, S. J. Catts.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow.

Prayer by Elder C. W. Hare.

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#### WEDNESDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

After half hour devotional exercises, Association was called to order by Moderator.

Brother J. G. Harris presented a report on Education, as requested yesterday. Remarks were made by Brethren J. G. Harris, D. Palmer, T. M. Bailey. At the conclusion of his remarks Elder Bailey asked for contributions for Ministerial Education, and the following pledges were made: Center Ridge church \$20.00, Town Creek \$20.00, Mt. Gilead \$10.00, Providence \$50.00, Pleasant Hill \$15.00, Shiloh \$10.00, Selma \$110.00, Bethany \$10.00.

The hour for preaching having arrived, further discussion of the report was postponed. Elder Hare preached the Missionary Sermon from 2 Cor. 6:1; at the conclusion of which a collection was taken for missions amounting to \$10.55.

Recess for one and a half hours.

#### AFTERNOON.

Prayer by Elder W. B. Crumpton.

After further discussions of the report on Education, by Brethren W. B. Crumpton, E. F. Baber and D. Palmer, the report was adopted.

#### REPORT ON EDUCATION.

At no period in the history of this country, has education so completely absorbed the mind and attention of the people as now. The wise man tells us to get wisdom, and with all our getting get understanding—evidently conveying the idea that knowledge is necessary to a faithful and intelligent discharge of duty in all the relations of life.

The public schools of our State are in a more prosperous and effective condition than ever before. Our public men are aroused on the subject of educating the masses, as a means of perpetuating civil and soul-liberty. Our Christian people find it a source of gospel dissemination, and the advancement of religious principles. Superstition recedes as education advances. Error retires before the supremacy of truth.

Our denomination is highly favored in having in our State such schools as Howard College and Judson Female Institute at Marion, and the Central Female College at Tuscaloosa. These are the institutions above all others where we ought to educate our sons and daughters, because they are in every way worthy, and they are under the fostering care of our denomination.

It is gratifying to know that the prejudices that once existed against an educated ministry are fast passing away. The triumphs of knowledge have worked revolutions in the minds of our Baptist people, and educated preachers are fast pushing their way to the front. To teach aright, the teacher must be taught. First of all, is a call to the ministry, and then preparation to comply with that call.

Female education should hold a high place in the performance of our duty toward our children. Those who are to direct and control the destinies of the young should be fully prepared by education for this high, sacred and responsible duty. To educate our children, religiously, is the highest demand upon us. The intellect should be trained, but the conscience should be developed into the highest Christian symmetry. Hence, above all things we would



urge a Christian training, a Christian education for those who are soon to fill our pulpits, our legislative halls, our homes, remembering this truth, that he builds too low who builds beneath the stars.

J. G. HARRIS.

Elder Crumpton presented the report on Missions ; Elder Bailey spoke on report and collected \$9.00, which was pledged at the last session for the Robert Carson Colportage Fund. On motion, the Clerk was requested to notify all whose pledges were still unpaid. After further remarks by Brethren J. M. Fortune and W. B. Crumpton the report was adopted.

#### REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee submits the following :

Every convert to Christ is a missionary in spirit. Every child of God is anxious that souls shall be saved. There can be no anti-missionary Christians or anti-missionary churches of Christ. There may be Christians and churches who object to certain methods of conducting missionary work, but in heart they love the work. To direct this missionary spirit, to discipline and train these missionary forces, is the great work of the pastors. If they faithfully instruct their people as to this duty, and will keep them informed as to the work of missions, there will be no lack of men or of money to carry forward the Master's work. Preachers who keep their own hearts aglow with love for the great world of sinners will have no trouble in leading their people to pray and contribute their money for the cause.

In our State we have the whole mission work entrusted to one Board.

The State Mission Board is laboring to supply the destitution in our own State with the preached word. In addition to this, it has the Bible and colportage work, the evangelization of the colored people, and the Indigent Ministers fund in hand, besides being the recognized agent for the Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention. All these objects commend themselves to our Christian sympathy.

The Board asks the Selma Association to raise the coming year for all these objects \$1,000. We can easily do this. Let all our churches adopt a plan of systematic giving, and we will not fail to meet every obligation.

W. B. CRUMPTON.

Committee on Religious Exercises and Time and Place made the following report: Preaching to-night by Elder T. M. Bailey. To preach Introductory Sermon next session, Elder E. F. Baber; Missionary Sermon, Elder J. M. Fortune; also reported that the Association meet next year at Providence church, Dallas county,

and further propose to change the time of meeting from the present time, to Saturday before the first Sunday in August, 1886.

The chair appointed Brethren Fortune, Crumpton and H. S. Yates, as a committee of apportionment.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock A.M.

#### THURSDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

After prayer Association was called to order.

Brother J. R. Crumpton, from Committee on Temperance, presented his report: After remarks by Brethren W. B. Crumpton, J. M. Fortune, T. M. Bailey, J. R. Crumpton, E. F. Baber, W. G. Curry, J. S. Catts and H. S. Yates, the report was amended and adopted.

#### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The temperance movement has been rapid, and in most instances, victorious. Much has been said and done against the evil influences of the whisky traffic in every State in the Union. The statistical reports demand that we should go forward with renewed vigor and determination to subdue this monster evil, when we read in them that four-fifths of the crimes committed in this country are traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors, and that nearly half the patients in the insane hospitals have come to insanity from the use of intoxicating drinks. The people of the United States pay nearly twice as much for drink as they do for bread; over three times as much for drink as they do for cotton and woollen goods; over four times as much for drink as for boots and shoes; ten times as much for drink as for public instruction; to religious causes about \$50,000,000; for drink \$900,000,000. We have much, however, to encourage us in the struggle for temperance. The considerate measures of our legislative bodies, Woman's Temperance Unions, and other agencies, have been so effective that many who once fought with vigor against prohibition, have quietly submitted, and are delighted with its results. But while we are marshaling our forces against the accursed liquor traffic, we fear there is another fierce enemy encroaching upon society as a thief in the night, quietly but steadily advancing in its vicious course—"The opium habit." Merchants frequently remark, "If your church members only knew how much morphine we bought and sold, you would think there was *another enemy equal to whisky.*"

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. CRUMPTON, Chairman.

Brother J. C. Yates having been appointed by the Moderator to fill vacancy in committee appointed last year, presented the following report which was adopted:

## REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It is well known that Sabbath schools are productive of great good in the teaching of the Bible. They have a most beneficial effect in our churches throughout the country, wherever they exist. Too much cannot be done to advance that work. Admitting, as we all must, the good that they do, it is only reasonable to say that they would do more if more attention were given them. Then our people should attend the Sabbath school more, and do all they can to carry this work forward to greater success.

J. C. YATES.

Brother W. B. Crumpton, from Committee on State of Religion in the churches, presented the following report, which was adopted :

## REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION IN CHURCHES.

We are gratified to report that some of our churches are enjoying precious revivals. Most of them report Sabbath schools, some of them in a flourishing condition. We are sorry to know that in our bounds there are but four weekly prayer meetings. The contributions reported at this session are largely in excess of last report. From three of our churches we have no report. We learn that two of them are quite weak.

W. B. CRUMPTON.

Committee on Documents find nothing to report.

Committee on Finance made their report which was amended and adopted.

The report of Committee on Time and Place was taken from the table, and after general discussion as to the month and day of the week of meeting, it was decided to meet on Tuesday after the first Sunday in August next.

Brother Johnson offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Body are hereby tendered to this church and community, for the liberal hospitality extended during our session.

On motion of Elder Crumpton it was ordered that the money collected after the missionary sermon, yesterday, be turned over to Elder T. M. Bailey for State Missions.

The chair announced the following committees to report next year :

On Missions—Lewis Johnson, L. L. Pierce, M. H. Traylor.

On Sunday Schools—J. O. Robertson, P. W. Johnson, J. R. Crumpton.

On Temperance—J. C. Yates, B. P. Mosely, H. W. Edwards.  
 On Literature—Wm. Day, S. J. Catts, H. S. Yates.

Elder Fortune, from Committee of Apportionment, reported as follows, and the report was adopted :

#### REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

Your Committee to apportion the sum asked by the State Mission Board for missions, report that we have divided the amount among the churches as follows :

Center Ridge.....	\$ 20 00	Sister Springs.....	\$ 5 00
Bethany .....	20 00	Selma.....	500 00
Benton....	10 00	Shiloh .....	40 00
Mt. Gilead.....	30 00	Town Creek .....	60 00
Providence.....	100 00		
Pleasant Hill....	40 00		\$830 00
Ruhama.....	5 00		

These do not include contributions to Ministerial Education.

On motion of Elder Fortune the delegates were requested to furnish the Clerk with the Sabbath school statistics of their churches, if not reported in their letters.

There being no further business before the Body, the hymn "Sweet By and By" was sung, the parting hand given, and after prayer by the Moderator, the Association adjourned to meet with Providence church, Dallas county, (five miles south of Orrville) on Tuesday after the first Sunday in August, 1886.

E. F. BABER, Moderator.

M. H. TRAYLOR, Clerk.

# FINANCE REPORT.

CHURCHES.	Minutes	State Missions.	Home Missions Including Valence Street Church New Orleans.	Foreign Missions.	R. Carson Colportage Fund.	Ministerial Education.	Endowment Howard College	Indigent Ministers	Ministerial Aid...	TOTAL.	Pastor's Salary...	TOTAL.			
Center Ridge. ....	CASH \$1 50	CASH \$4 25	VRS. \$4 75	CASH \$4 25	VRS. \$7 00	CASH \$4 25	VRS. \$3 00	CASH \$8 00	VRS. \$10 00	CASH \$1 00	VRS. \$1 00	CASH \$18 50	VRS. \$18 75	\$200 00	\$237 25
Town Creek. ....	1 30	3 00	16 15	12 55	21 15	8 00	12 50	12 50	12 50	1 50	4 40	13 80	16 90	150 00	180 70
" " L. B. So.				16 00	8 00		3 50	6 00	19 50			3 75	25 00	100 00	74 25
" " Sab. Sch.							12 50					2 65			128 75
Bethany. ....	5 50		2 50	2 00											2 65
Benton. ....	1 00	1 55													
*Ruhmah. ....															
Mt. Gilend. ....	1 75	1 00	14 75	7 10		10 00	7 50					3 75	39 35	100 00	144 10
Providence. ....	2 50		55 75	21 00	25 00	19 00	66 50					2 50	297 60	300 00	600 10
Pleasant Hill. ....	1 50	2 00		6 00	5 00	4 00	15 50		10 00			14 50	31 50	250 00	
Sister Springs. ....															
Shiloh. ....	1 00														
Selma. ....	2 50		2 35				11 75	90 00				2 50	14 10	200 00	206 00
		150 00	82 00	82 50										1,800 00	2,205 00

\*Not reported. †A home is furnished in addition to salary.

Collection after Missionary Sermon given to State Missions, \$10.00.

Note — In addition to the items usually enumerated in the foregoing statement Providence church reports: Church expenses, \$48.85; contributed to Demopolis church building, \$10.00; contributed by Ladies' Aid Society for various benevolent enterprises, \$20.00 (all of which is included in the above total,) and \$10.00 contributed by Sabbath school, and used for expenses of same. Selma, Church reports: Church expenses, \$683.85; for church building, \$63.00; value church property, \$10,000.00.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	PASTORS' POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS.	CLERKS' POSTOFFICE.	Sabbath Meetings	Ladies' Mis. So.	Prayer Meetings.	Pupils.	Sabbath Schools.	Total No. Mem.	Decreased	Increased.	Excluded	Died.	Dis. by Letter.	Restored	Rec. by Voucher.	Rec. by Letter.	Baptized.	County.
Center Ridge.	W. G. Curry	Furman.	J. C. Yates.	Minter Station.	2	1	...	30	W	59	4	...	...	7	7	1	1	1	2	D
Town Creek.	J. M. Fortune.	Pleasant Hill.	T. K. Whitman.	Benton.	4	1	...	25	W	60	...	13	...	4	4	1	...	2	16	D
Bethany.	J. M. Fortune.	Pleasant Hill.	J. O. Robertson.	Collirene.	1	1	...	...	W	28	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	D
Benton.	E. F. Baber.	Collirene.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	L
Ruhama.	E. F. Baber.	Collirene.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	L
Mt. Gilead.	E. F. Baber.	Collirene.	M. H. Traylor.	Benton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	L
Providence.	W. B. Crumpton.	Shield's Mill.	J. F. Averyt.	Portland.	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	L
Pleasant Hill.	B. H. Crumpton.	Evergreen.	J. R. Crumpton.	Pleasant Hill.	...	...	...	50	W	91	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	L
Sister Springs.	E. F. Baber.	Collirene.	W. L. Smoke.	Benton.	...	...	...	50	W	57	...	...	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	D
Shiloh.	E. F. Baber.	Collirene.	W. E. Clark.	Benton.	...	...	...	...	W	17	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	D
Selma.	J. M. Frost.	Selma.	A. J. Goodwin.	Selma.	...	...	...	120	W	55	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	D
Total.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	275	...	659	12	47	8	10	4	22	1	32	50	...



